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ON PAGE A-1

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Brown says allies have shirked burden, urges agreement to control nuclear arms

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Washington—Retiring Defense Secretary Harold Brown, citing relentless Soviet military expansion, yesterday excoriated America's European and Japanese allies for failure to take on a greater share of the defense burden.

In his final report to Congress on U.S. defense posture, Mr. Brown combined pleas for greater overall military preparedness with renewed urging for strategic arms limitation agreements to head off a deadly nuclear weapons race with the Soviet Union.

The physicist and nuclear arms expert, who has run the Pentagon for the past four years, underlined trends that could make the world of the 1980s "more dangerous than any we have yet known" if the United States and its allies fail to maintain adequate military strength.

These trends, developing for two decades, are the growth of Soviet power, the industrialized nations' dependence on Persian Gulf oil and "growing instability in the developing countries" that hold many vital resources.

Mr. Brown sought to drive home the

necessity for nuclear arms control and for nuclear parity with Russia by citing the "unimaginable destructive potential" of such weapons.

The United States, he reported, has 9,000 nuclear bombs and missile warheads, and the Soviet Union has about 7,000.

In a thermonuclear war, he said, American fatalities would range from a low of 20 million to 55 million up to a high of 155 million to 165 million. Soviet fatalities would range from 23 million to 34 million up to a high of 64 million to 100 million.

There is no higher national priority therefore than deterring nuclear war—"making that unlikely possibility even more remote"—he said.

Mr. Brown, evidently frustrated by four years of trying to get European and Japanese allies to do more about defense, criticized their actions in uncharacteristically strong terms.

The United States and Western Europe still are not fully facing up to the Warsaw Pact buildup, he said. Even with the new threats to the oil lifelines of America, Europe and Japan, he said, "many of our allies are either untroubled by the threats or unwilling to assume their share of the

common defense burden."

Now spending more on defense, the American people and their congressional representatives "will not long tolerate" an assumption by allies that their security is more important and thus more costly to the United States than to themselves, he said.

Mr. Brown's analysis of the world situation and the perils of the 1980s was essentially consistent with that of the incoming secretary of state, Alexander M. Haig, Jr., who voiced quite similar worries when he was commander of allied forces in Europe.

Mr. Haig, just taking up his diplomatic duties, was less critical of the allies in public confirmation hearings, however, than the retiring defense chief felt a need to be. The secretary of state-designate nonetheless left no doubt of his conviction that "we must all do more."

Mr. Brown, who has been both arms builder and arms controller in his nearly three decades of government service, said retention of the nuclear arms limits in the aborted SALT II treaty was "of major importance to our security interests." The strategic arms limitation treaty was set aside when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and the Reagan administration hopes to negotiate a version that reduces arms ceilings.

However the impasse is resolved, Mr. Brown said, sustaining the process of nuclear arms control will be one of the "most critical national security challenges of the 1980s."

In the Reagan campaign for the presidency, Republicans often claimed the Soviet Union was spending to its limit on nuclear arms and therefore could not effectively respond to a further American buildup.

Mr. Brown, drawing heavily on Central Intelligence Agency assessments, scoffed at such an idea.

There is no evidence, he said, to support a contention that the Soviet Union cannot bear the additional defense spending which "a renewed, intensified arms competition would necessitate."

He estimated that Russia had spent \$270 billion more than the United States since 1968 on research, development and purchase of arms and related military construction programs.

Mr. Brown's report to Congress ran to 350 pages. In it, he spelled out in detail the strategy, weapons programs and manpower goals that underlie the retiring administration's request for appropriation of \$196.4 billion for defense in fiscal 1982.